GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2641
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008
WELFARE OF WOMEN PRISONERS AND THEIR CHILDREN
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Rijiju Shri Kiren

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints with regard to lack of arrangement for the proper development of the women inmates and the children living with them in various jails of the country;

(b) if so,the details in this regard;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the safety,education and healthcare of women inmates and their children;and

(d) the details of schemes/projects launched for this purpose and funds allocated during each of the last three years and the current year,State-wise,scheme/project-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a): No,Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): In the R.D. Upadhyaya vs State of Andhra Pradesh case, the Supreme Court has formulated guidelines for providing various facilities to the children living with their mothers in the prisons.The Supreme Court has directed the State Governments to follow these guidelines which include providing the children with a healthy and clean environment,nutritious diet,good medical care,adequate clothing,educational and recreational facilities.Children below three years are required to be kept in a crÃ¨che and those between 3-6 years in a nursery.The State Legal Service authorities are also required to periodically inspect prisons to monitor that the directions given by the Supreme Court are followed in letter and spirit.

An advisory was also issued by the Government of India on 15.5.2006 to all the States/UTs to take urgent action for implementing the orders of the Supreme Court.

(d): "Prisons" is a State subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and Prison Administration is the responsibility of the State Governments.However,in order to improve the condition of prisons and Prisoners,the Central Government started a non-plan scheme in 2002-03 for construction of additional prisons/barracks to reduce overcrowding,repair and renovation of existing prisons,improvement in sanitation and water supply & living conditions of prisoners.The scheme is being implemented over a period of five years with a total outlay of Rs 1800 crore on cost sharing basis in the ratio of 75:25 between the Central and State Governments respectively. The scheme has since been extended upto 31.3.2009.A statement showing funds released to various States is enclosed.